



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **KEEP YOUR PET OUT OF HARM'S WAY**

### *Independence Day Safety Tips*

Your family pets can become frightened and frantic because of the noise and commotion of Independence Day celebrations, County Animal Services officials warned today.

"The noise generated by fireworks displays and other noisemakers on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July can frighten pets and trigger an escape or "flight" response that can cause serious injury or even death to your pet," said Dawn Danielson, Acting Director of County Animal Services.

"To seek safety from loud noises, pets may dig under, climb over, or break through gates, screens, fences, windows, or doors and injure themselves or become lost," said Danielson. "And anytime a pet is running at large, they are exposed to the even greater dangers of injury from vehicles or other animals."

Animal Services offers the following tips to keep your pets safe during July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations:

- **Resist the urge to take your pet to fireworks displays.**
- **Do not leave your pet in the car.** With only hot air to breathe inside a car, your pet can suffer serious health effects, even death, in a few minutes.
- **Keep your pets indoors in a sheltered, quiet area.** Some dogs may become destructive when frightened, so be sure to remove dangerous objects your pet may chew. Leave a television or radio playing at normal volume to keep your pet company while you're away.
- **Never leave pets outside unattended, even in a fenced yard or on a chain.** In their fear, pets that normally wouldn't leave the yard may escape and get lost.
- **If you know that your pet is seriously distressed by loud noises like thunder,** consult with your veterinarian before July 4<sup>th</sup> to see if medication that relieves anxiety is appropriate.
- **Ensure your pets are easily identifiable and call Animal Services at (619) 236-4250 if you have found a lost pet.** The department's shelters are located in Carlsbad, Bonita and Gaines Street in San Diego. Although the shelters will be closed on July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, animal control officers will be on duty. Lost pets found with internal microchip identification and/or external ID tags or licenses are more readily reunited with their owners. If you have lost your pet, visit the shelter closest to you on Tuesday July 6 or check the Department's web site: [www.sddac.com](http://www.sddac.com).

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